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LETTER DATED 7 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. At 2035 hours on 6 March 1997, in the Shatt al-Arab channel inside Iraqi territorial waters, a United States helicopter circled the Iraqi tug Hayyit a number of times at very low altitude.

2. At 1900 hours on 15 April 1997 a grey-coloured United States Navy helicopter flew over the area near buoy 13 inside Iraqi territorial waters.

3. At 1300 hours on 17 April 1997, near buoy 15 inside Iraqi territorial waters, a grey-coloured helicopter armed with two missiles coming from the United States frigate Halyburton on station to the south of Mina' al-Bakr and Mina' al-Amiq flew over an Iraqi patrol boat at very low altitude.

4. At 1850 hours on 21 April 1997 a United States Navy helicopter flew over the area near buoy 13 inside Iraqi territorial waters at low altitude before heading towards the Kuwaiti shore.

I request your intervention with the United States of America with a view to halting and ensuring that there is no recurrence of these unwarranted acts of provocation, which are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and international law inasmuch as they are in flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations. In accordance with the principle of State responsibility, I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to it by these violations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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